

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Problem of Farm Surpluses Looms

**Bumper Crops During the Year May Bring a Prewar Difficulty Back in Spotlight**

"AMERICAN farmers in 1948," says U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan, "produced the largest corn crop in history on the second smallest number of acres in 50 years. They produced the second largest crop of potatoes in history on the smallest number of acres in the past 70 years." Moreover, according to early estimates, the 1949 U. S. wheat crop may become the sixth in succession to yield more than a billion bushels.

During World War II and the period immediately following it, we have had little trouble in disposing of big crops. In most cases, the difficulty has been to produce enough. In recent months, however, there has been increasing talk about the probable return of an old farm problem—that of crop surpluses. The idea of "overproduction" seems strange and unfamiliar to us now, after years of shortages; but in the 1920's and 1930's crop surpluses brought ruin to many American farmers.

There were several reasons for the condition which developed at that time. In the first place, foreign countries were not purchasing many farm products from America. Our government had established high tariffs which prevented other nations from selling goods to us. Lacking American dollars, the people of these countries found it necessary to buy their grain and fibers from lands other than the United States—lands in which the

(Concluded on page 6)



HARBOR SCENE in Venice. Italy has a tremendous task ahead in trying to build the country anew.

## Italy Makes Good Progress

**Nation Is Using Recovery Funds Wisely, but Has Not Yet Tackled Several Important Basic Problems that Must Be Solved If People Are to Prosper**

ITALY is at once a hope and a problem. It is a hope because the nation is using the money made available to her under the European Recovery Program as wisely as is any other country receiving aid. At the same time, Italy is a problem—first, because certain basic difficulties have not yet been dealt with; and second, because she wants to have the colonies she once owned in Africa returned to her.

These lands—including Libya on the Mediterranean Sea, Eritrea on the Red Sea, and Italian Somaliland on the Indian Ocean—are not rich and

productive. They are strategically located, though, and they are in an area where Western interests may clash with those of the Arab nations.

The three colonies belonged to Italy long before the days of Mussolini. Little was done to develop them, chiefly because of the great expense that would have been involved. They did, though, furnish the mother country with a few supplies and they took some of Italy's products. Italy wants them returned to her now for two reasons. They could provide homes for the country's excess population, and their return would add to the prestige

of the present government, which is under the direction of Alcide de Gasperi.

More than a year ago the Big Four—France, Great Britain, Russia, and the United States—undertook the problem of trying to decide what to do with the colonies. According to the terms of the Italian peace treaty signed after World War II, some arrangement was to be made regarding the colonies by September of last year, or the question was to go to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

No agreement was reached by the appointed time, so the issue is now before the Assembly. It is there that Italy is pressing her request for return of the colonies.

What disposition the General Assembly will make of the problem is not known as this paper goes to press. The major powers are still divided on the question. Great Britain and the United States would like to have the eastern part of Libya put under British trusteeship and they would postpone decision on what should be done about western Libya. Part of Eritrea they would give to Ethiopia in order to make up for the damage done to that country by Mussolini's armies; and they would return Somaliland to Italy.

Russia favors having the colonies put under UN supervision, and France suggests that all the areas be returned to Italy under a trusteeship.

Opinion among the smaller UN powers has not yet crystallized. The Arab nations are opposed to any arrangement that would place the colonies under a European power, but the Latin American countries have not taken a definite stand on the matter. What the smaller countries decide may

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## Popularity and Principles

By Walter E. Myer

THE *Journal* of the National Education Association carries in its April issue a column of brief sentence paragraphs, each

one expressing an idea relative to character or citizenship. At the top of the column is the advice, "Better be right than popular."

It is of course better yet if one can be both right and popular, and as a usual thing, that is possible. The person who heeds to the line of duty, who is fair and honest in all his dealings, who obeys the dictates of his conscience, will almost certainly have many friends. His high standards of conduct make him more popular, not less so.

Once in a while, however, one gets into a position where he is tempted to go along with "the crowd" even though his associates are going in the wrong direction.

Suppose, for example, that a number of your friends cheat in examinations. They expect you to go along with them. If you refuse they may be angry. They may make fun of your high ideals. In such a case you must make a difficult decision.

You must decide whether to hold to your principles and do what you know to be right, or to go against your conscience—trading honor for the temporary approval of those who are weak or unprincipled.

Many other illustrations of the conflict between duty and the desire for popularity could be cited. You may be convinced that it is wrong to drink intoxicants, but you may be afraid to abstain because of what your friends may say of you. Should you, under such circumstances, do the right thing or the popular thing?

Frederick Starr answers such questions in this way: "Strive for the approval of your companions, but do not

be too easily moved by ridicule. When you know what you ought to do, permit not the laughter of others to deter you."

If you are in doubt about the wisdom of such a rule stop for a moment and figure out what you would lose and what you would gain by following it.

Weigh the advantages of such conduct against the disadvantages.

You would, perhaps, lose a few friends, at least temporarily. You would gain the friendship of many others. You would gain in popularity among those who admire honor, independence and loyalty to high ideals. You would lose the support of a certain number who have already cast principle aside.

By living in accordance with conscience and principle you will maintain your self-respect and the confidence of friends who are tried and true. Don't make enemies by trying to force your ideals upon others, but don't let unprincipled associates drag you down to their level.



Walter E. Myer





## Italy's Progress

(Concluded from page 1)

be controlling, for they are in the majority in the Assembly and the big powers have agreed to abide by the Assembly's decision.

While this question of the colonies is foremost in Italian interest right now, the people are still going about the job of trying to build a strong, stable nation. The nation's problems fall into two groups—the immediate difficulties that must be overcome, and the long-range issues that are extremely serious.

Four of Italy's immediate difficulties are outstanding. They are high prices, low salaries, unemployment, and inadequate housing. The first three of these are linked together. At a time when the country needs all the goods it can possibly produce, both for use at home and sale abroad, there is, ironically, widespread unemployment. This is in part because the nation needs more factories than it now has. It arises also from the fact that the country's factories need more raw materials than can be produced in that land.

Because unemployment is high, competition for jobs is keen, and salaries of persons who have work are low. Usually such circumstances as these—large unemployment and low

wages—result in low prices, but such is not the case in present-day Italy. Prices are high because of the scarcities and because the country must import, at high cost, a large part of the raw materials and foods that it needs. The result of this rather complicated situation is that few Italians have money enough to buy the articles they want and need.

ERP funds are helping Italy to overcome some of these problems. New machinery and additional supplies of raw materials are being purchased in sizable quantities. Eventually, according to present plans, Italy hopes to increase her factory facilities so that employment, production, and wages will rise, while prices come down.

The housing shortage in Italy, like that in many other European nations, is a direct result of the war. Homes were destroyed during the conflict and little was done to rebuild them or to provide new dwellings normally required by the growing population. Work is going ahead to improve the housing situation, but progress is slow.

While these immediate difficulties are serious, Italy's long-range problems are even more troublesome. They arise from the fact that the country has too many people and too few resources. About 47 million people live in Italy, whose area is approximately equal to the combined areas of our

states of Georgia and Florida. Each year Italy's population increases by about 400,000—faster than the factories and farms increase their production.

In the past, the population problem was taken care of by large-scale emigration of Italians to the United States, Argentina, and other countries. Many Italians also went into nearby European countries at certain seasons to work on farms.

The doors to immigration in the United States, and in many other of the countries that once provided homes for Italians, have now been almost closed. Some of the Latin American nations are anxious to have immigrants from Europe, and they would welcome Italians except for one factor. The countries want skilled workers who can help them increase their industrial production. Unfortunately, though, the Italians who are skilled laborers do not want to leave home, and those who are willing to emigrate do not have the skills wanted by the South American nations.

It has been suggested that means be found to teach Italians who are willing to emigrate the technical skills that will make them acceptable to the Latin American nations.

Coupled with the problem of population, and tending to make it increasingly serious, is the fact that the Italian peninsula is poor in natural resources. It has almost no coal and it

has very few other minerals. Lack of coal has been made up partially by the use of water power in the north, but other minerals must be imported.

Italy stretches southward from the Alps to the Mediterranean Sea. The broad section of the country in the north—the Po Valley—is the most prosperous part of the nation. Here are found most of Italy's factories and here, too, is the best agricultural land.

The rest of the peninsula is rugged and is made up primarily of the Apennine Mountains which run from north to south. While many parts of these mountains are used for farming, the soil is thin and it has been virtually exhausted by centuries of cultivation.

Italy owns numerous islands that lie along her coasts. The largest of these are Sicily and Sardinia. Like the mainland, the islands are rugged and are not generally productive. They do, though, contribute a few minerals to the country—mercury, copper, zinc, lead, silver, and bauxite from which aluminum is obtained.

Italy's farming, both in the north and in the south, should be modernized. Strangely enough, farmers in the two sections have been slow to turn to the use of machinery, but for entirely opposite reasons. In the north the farms are small and are, for the most part, owned by the families who cultivate them. Since machinery is expensive and cannot really be economically used on small fields, the people of the north have not bought it.

In the south, the agricultural land is owned by a few wealthy persons and it is held in the form of large estates. Peasants or tenant farmers do the actual labor. The landowners have not been interested in bringing machinery to their fields, since they can easily and cheaply hire farm hands to do the work.

The large estates of southern Italy are one of the serious problems the country faces. Many Italians feel that agricultural production would rise if the farmers owned the land they till. They want the large holdings to be broken up and redistributed among the peasants.

Recently Premier de Gasperi announced that the first steps would be taken toward accomplishing this end. More than 3 million acres of land, some of it belonging to the government and some of it held in the "over-large estates," will be divided.

This is, however, but one step toward solving one of Italy's problems. The picture seems discouraging, but it is not by any means hopeless. The progress made during the past year and the serious way in which the Italian government is going about its work give hope that the country will continue to advance.



ITALY and her former African colonies are shown in black



## Your Vocabulary

The italicized words in the sentences below appeared recently in an issue of the Atlanta Constitution. Match each italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

- The speaker *derided* (dee-ride'ed) the remarks made by his opponents. (a) agreed with (b) ridiculed (c) applauded (d) disagreed with.
- The meeting adjourned *sine die* (sī'ne dī'ē). (a) without concluding its business (b) without any disputes (c) without setting a date on which to reassemble.
- His statement *precipitated* (pre-sip'i-tay-ted) the argument. (a) suddenly caused (b) concluded (c) prolonged (d) made worse.
- The official was accused of *malpractice* (māl'prāk'tiss) in office. (a) loafing (b) wrongdoing (c) favoritism (d) mistaken judgment.
- Some called his behavior *reprehensible* (rēp-rē-hen'si-ble). (a) blame-worthy (b) praiseworthy (c) justified (d) puzzling.
- The press *reproved* (re-proved') him. (a) criticized (b) agreed with (c) ridiculed (d) sympathized with.

## SMILES

"Your roof must be leaking. Does it always leak?"

"No. Only when it rains."

★ ★ ★

"I'll pay you next month."

"That's what you told me last month."

"Well, I'm not one of those people who say one thing one time and something else later on."

★ ★ ★

"Mother, may I go to the zoo to see the monkeys?"

"Why, Tommy! Imagine wanting to go to see the monkeys when your Aunt Betsy is here!"



"Suppose you leave it here with us for a couple of days, Mr. Fowler, while you go out and hunt up all the money you can."

Teacher: "If a man walking at the rate of four miles an hour gets an hour's start on a man walking five miles an hour, where will the second overtake the first?"

Student: "At the first hot dog stand."

★ ★ ★

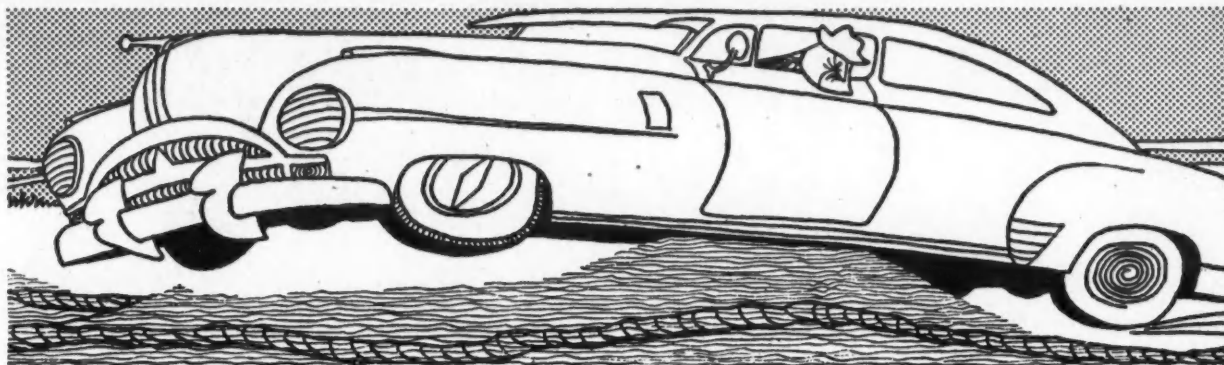
Two little boys came into the dentist's office. One said to the dentist, "I want a tooth took out, and I don't want no gas, because I'm in a hurry."

Dentist: "That's a brave little boy. Which tooth is it?"

Little Boy: "Show him your tooth, Albert."

★ ★ ★

Cynic: When a woman driver puts her hand out of a car as though she is going to make a left-turn, the only thing you can be certain of is that her window is down.



ONE CRITICISM against new cars is that they are too low for certain types of driving

# Postwar Cars Arouse Complaints

Many Buyers Say Today's Autos Are Costly and Impractical

Alfred H. Sinks, a well-known writer on scientific subjects, speculates on the future of American automobiles in a recent piece in Harper's Magazine. We are presenting a digest of his timely article.

BY the middle of last summer, buyer resistance among the car-hungry public had stiffened, and it has been growing ever since. It is not because the postwar demand has been satisfied and is not altogether because of rising prices. More and more criticism is directed at intrinsic weaknesses in the cars themselves.

What is the complaint? Cars have been growing steadily longer and harder to park and maneuver. Their bulging sides have become far more vulnerable to damage. Postwar cars will not fit into many prewar garages. The cost of maintaining cars has risen even faster than their prices.

From the consumer's standpoint recent automotive progress can be summed up in a sentence: Our cars are steadily becoming more costly, more expensive to maintain and operate, fancier, and less useful.

How has all this happened? The real trouble is that increasingly our automobiles have been designed not by technical experts but by sales executives and advertising men intent upon producing a "big package" which will solve their selling problems. The engineer is expected to fit a function-

ing machine into the body forms and luxury accessories dreamed up by the sales and advertising moguls. The result is a mechanical monstrosity.

Why have the salesmen insisted upon such changes? Because of the demands of the dealer who can make a profit only if he has a high-priced product to sell and can maintain a rapid rate of turnover.

Consequently there must be a "new" line every year. But a new model must not be too different from last year's. For if a manufacturer should make any really radical improvement in his "new" model, all the old cars of that series would instantly look even older. Used car prices would drop. Any extra profit a dealer might hope to make on an attractive "new package" would be gobbled up by his loss on the trade-ins.

Thus the manufacturer hardly dares risk any radical departure from traditional design. Having started in one direction, design trends must march down the same road even though scientific discovery might seem to offer an opportunity for a fresh start.

Considering that the trend is toward ever bigger and fancier cars, we might well pause and take note of this fact: The bulk and awkwardness of modern cars aggravates the creeping paralysis of traffic, which, in many urban centers, continues to grow worse and seems almost incurable.

The answer to urban traffic stagnation looks like the small car. Reduction of congestion would take place gradually as such cars replaced the older ones. The small car would not beat up road surfaces as do our overweight cars. Other advantages include economy of operation, and convenience in parking, cleaning, and so on.

It is obvious that a lot of us would be a lot better off if American manufacturers built smaller cars. We need to make a clean break; to free our engineers to build cars that would make full use of the engineering techniques of today.

Before he can properly judge these cars, the American driver will have to set aside some of his prejudices and preconceived notions of what a car should be. He must learn to look at them from the standpoint of functional value. Functionalism means not only efficiency and economy, but comfort as well. It means a car fitted to the needs of the individual who uses it and, at the same time, one fitted to the size of his pocketbook.

What is really needed is the will to take the risks of change. Will some major manufacturer order his engineers to start building the kind of cars for which a growing public is waiting? The decision would be a bold one. But it might prove to be the most far-sighted decision ever made in Detroit.

## Radio and Television

"I'M a pretty lucky guy," says easy-going Jack Berch who has his own 15-minute singing show on NBC each weekday morning at 11:30.

"After all, not every radio show permits you to help people at the same time you are trying to entertain them." Each day, on his broadcasts, appeals are made for shut-ins, invalids, and unfortunates everywhere.

Only recently Jack read a letter on the air sent in by a nurse about a 15-year-old rheumatic fever victim who read a few frayed letters that he kept under his pillow and re-read them until they were practically shreds. Jack suggested that listeners might want to write to the youth and, as a result, the hospital was flooded with more than 35,000 pieces of mail and many gifts.

Another time, Jack appealed for discarded scraps of wool for women to knit into blankets for servicemen in hospitals. There was an immediate response from more than a thousand

people in every state in the union.

Then there was a little boy who was grief-stricken because his dog was killed by a car. Two listeners presented the boy with a puppy almost identical to the Cocker he lost.



A NEW BLONDIE. Ann Rutherford (right) now plays the title role in the Wednesday night NBC comedy show that features the Bumstead family. Shown with her are Arthur Lake (left), who is Dagwood, and Jeffrey Silver, who plays young Alexander.

Jack Benny, on his CBS program: Rochester, you know that picture of my Maxwell that hangs in the den? That's the first car I ever owned.

Rochester: That's the first car anybody ever owned.

★ ★ ★

He never went to high school but he was a professor at Dartmouth College.

He was a National League umpire for a number of years, and he made an outstanding reputation for accurate decisions while serving in that capacity.

He can rattle off sports statistics as if he had just digested an encyclopedia of sports.

He is Albert "Dolly" Stark, who gave up an umpire's career in 1941 after some 14 years of service and who is now regularly heard and seen with Caswell Adams on CBS-TV's informative five-a-week series, "Your Sports Special."

—By GEORGE EDSON.



# The Story of the Week

## British Politics

Will the Labor Party of Great Britain win the general elections scheduled to take place in the fall of 1950? This is a question that has been causing much discussion both in Britain and the United States, for the outcome of the 1950 elections may have a profound effect on the rest of the world.

Just recently, a number of County Council elections were held in Britain, and the Laborites lost many seats to the Conservatives, their chief political opponents. Some observers view this as evidence that the Conservatives will return to power next year. Others express the opinion that the results



**STUDENT MONITORS** help keep order in school buses in North Carolina. They also get out at each railroad crossing to see that no trains are coming. Here one of the monitors signals that all is clear on the tracks.

of county elections may not really indicate what will occur in the balloting for a new Parliament.

The Labor Party believes that it will win a majority of seats in the legislature—and thus retain control over the national government—by going ahead with its present socialist program. It is telling the voters that, if kept in office, it will bring about public ownership of still more industries and will continue its large-scale social security system.

In the opinion of many observers, the Labor Party's most difficult task will be to convince the British people that the high taxes they must pay are worth the "benefits" they are receiving from the government. The social security program alone is costing the British taxpayer a great deal of money. Even though the war has been over for more than three years, present taxes in that country are among the highest in its history.

## Polar Expedition

U. S. officials are now making plans for further exploration of regions around the South Pole. It is believed that Admiral Richard E. Byrd, America's foremost explorer, will be placed in charge of an expedition to that area, where uranium and other valuable minerals are thought to exist. Byrd's previous expeditions to the Antarctic have already placed this country in a strong position to make territorial claims there.

Great Britain, France, Argentina,

Chile, Norway, Australia, and New Zealand all have claims on sections of the ice-covered continent, and it is thought that the Soviet Union is planning to advance a claim, too. Russians were among the earliest explorers of the region, more than a century ago.

The United States has made no official claims up to this time, but it has always emphasized that it reserved the right to do so. Meanwhile, we have refused to recognize the claims of any other nation.

The decision to send an expedition to Antarctica is said to have been made following the break-down of U. S. attempts to bring about international control of those regions "at the bottom of the world." None of the countries that have claims there accepted the U. S. suggestion, and Argentina and Chile rejected it outright. Many of the claims conflict.

## World-Starvation?

In the past year a number of authorities have pointed out that the earth's population is increasing much faster than the food supply. On the basis of such facts, they have made alarming predictions concerning the future of the human race. Some people have been led to feel that "world-starvation" might come about.

In a recent copy of *This Week Magazine*, Bruce Bliven takes a much more optimistic point of view than do these authorities. He presents a number of encouraging facts which—he feels—have not been given the attention they deserve.

For example, Mr. Bliven points out that food production can be greatly increased by the application of science to farming. Farmers in Denmark, for instance, get five times as much food per acre on the same type of land as do farmers in India. Within the past 15 years, the output of farms in the United States has increased by more than one third on the same acreage. These achievements have been made possible by science, and further advances can be expected.

Mr. Bliven thinks, too, that many new food sources can be developed. For example, he says we could increase our food supply from the ocean



**ANTOINETTE CONCELLO** is "flying" again under the big tent, with Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, after her recovery from shoulder injuries. Four years ago the predictions were that the trapeze artist would never again do her breath-taking stunts. With determination and practice, though, she overcame the results of her injuries.

100-fold if we wished. Great strides are being made in the production of yeast as a nutritive food.

Mr. Bliven agrees with less optimistic authorities that we must not be wasteful of our resources. However, we have a bright future, he says, "if we will use a little common sense."

## "Genocide" Pact

The legislatures of the various members of the UN are studying, at present, the terms of the "genocide" agreement that was approved by the General Assembly in Paris last winter. The agreement will go into effect as soon as it is ratified by 20 UN members.

Genocide is a term meaning the mass destruction of human beings for religious, racial or national reasons. An example of genocide was the murder of six million Jews during the last war by the Germans. Another example was the destruction of a countless number of Poles during the same conflict solely because they were Poles.

Under the agreement that was approved in Paris, the nations that ratify the pact will make genocide a crime within their borders. They will

also cooperate with one another to prevent its occurring elsewhere in the world.

Many religious, civic and welfare organizations are now working out plans to secure the ratification of the agreement by the necessary number of countries. In the United States, the agreement must be approved by the Senate, since the pact is considered as a treaty. A two-thirds vote of the Senators present is necessary to ratify a treaty.

## Guns Blaze in China

As we go to press, the civil war in China is once more in progress. Guns are blazing throughout the Yangtze Valley. The Communist forces have crossed the river at several points as they start their long-expected push into the south.

The resumption of war came after the break-down of peace negotiations. The final Communist peace terms, which asked for what amounted to total surrender, were rejected by the Nationalists, thus ending the truce which had been in effect since January.

An incident which attracted considerable attention as the fighting got underway again was the involvement of several British warships in the conflict. The sloop, *Amethyst*, was fired on by Communist artillery as the vessel was proceeding up the Yangtze River with supplies for the British embassy at Nanking. Other British ships coming to the aid of the *Amethyst* were also put under fire.

While the incident is not expected to involve Great Britain in China's civil war, it may be a serious stumbling-block to the future establishment of normal relations between Britain and Communist-controlled areas in China. Meanwhile, the British may be compelled to withdraw their patrol boats from the Yangtze River.

## D. C. "Birthday"

Plans are now under way for the celebration next year of the 150th "birthday" of Washington, D. C. A commission has been set up to arrange a program for the anniversary.

Washington is considered to have been founded in 1800 because that is the year in which a section of the



**POLICE** under four flags. Military police from France, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States have cooperated surprisingly well in patrolling the streets of Vienna, the capital of Austria. Their job is to prevent incidents that might be caused by members of the Allied forces who are in the occupied city.



Capitol Building was completed and was first used by the U. S. Congress.

According to the plans for the celebration of the founding of Washington, a great Sesquicentennial Exposition will be conducted by the anniversary commission. The exposition will consist of exhibits by various business and civic groups, the 48 state governments, and the federal government. Its aim will be to show the progress that has been made in industry, agriculture, labor, and other fields since 1800.

## Women of the Year

Next week six American women will receive recognition for outstanding achievements in 1948. President Truman will present them with awards bestowed by the Women's National Press Club.

Heading the list of outstanding women will be Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who will receive the club's "Woman of the Year" award. Mrs. Roosevelt is being honored for her work as chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission. A woman of wide interests, she appears regularly on a radio program and writes a daily column which appears in many newspapers.

A second recipient will be the 88-year-old artist, Mrs. Anna Mary Moses of Eagle Bridge, New York. Known widely as "Grandma" Moses, she has become famous for her scenes of country life, many of which appear each year on Christmas cards. She is being honored as one of the most popular and original painters of the present day.

The other recipients are as follows: Madeleine Carroll, actress. Chosen for an award on the basis of her outstanding achievements in the theatre, Miss Carroll is also known for her relief work among war orphans.

Marjorie Child Husted, home economist. The former director of the Betty Crocker Homemaking Service, Mrs. Husted now holds a high executive position with General Mills, makers of various household products.

Dorothy McCullough Lee, Mayor of



ENGLAND is dependent on her coal industry—and yet the mines have been "starved for workers." To meet the serious need, the country has set up mining schools where teen-agers are trained for the work.

Portland, Oregon. She is being honored as the first woman to be elected mayor of a city with a population greater than 500,000, and also for her work in curbing gambling in Portland.

Mary Jane Ward, author. Miss Ward, author of "The Snake Pit," is credited, through her book, with having drawn the attention of the public to the need for reforming mental institutions.

## Best Ball Player

Who is the best ball player in the United States today? Grantland Rice, veteran sports columnist of the *New York Sun*, thinks that Stan Musial of the St. Louis Cardinals holds that distinction. Followers of Williams, Boudreau, and a number of other stars may not agree with Rice, but they will have to admit that he advances some compelling arguments in support of the great Cardinal player.

Musial is not only an outstanding batter, says Rice, but he is also a top-flight man on defense, equally at home in the outfield or at first base. In addition, he is a fine team-player,

always subordinating his own wishes to the welfare of the club.

The 28-year-old Musial is now starting his seventh season with St. Louis. During his career he has led the National League in hitting three times and has been adjudged the most valuable player in the circuit on an equal number of occasions. His lifetime batting average is .345.

A native of Donora, Pennsylvania, the modest, likable Musial started out as a southpaw pitcher. He was a good one, too, until he injured his arm in 1940 while playing with a Florida club. Musial almost quit baseball then, but he was persuaded to shift to the outfield. Within a year his sensational batting carried him from the low minors to the big leagues. He has been a star ever since with the exception of the 1945 season when he served in the Navy.

## Corfu Incident

As a result of a recent decision by the International Court of Justice, Albania is now under obligation to pay Great Britain for the damaging of two British ships and the loss of 44 British lives in a mine explosion off the Albanian coast some time ago. The Court ruled that, while Albania may not have planted the mines, she was responsible for the accident since it occurred in waters which wash her southwestern shore.

Because of the successful manner in which the court handled the dispute, many officials of the UN are hoping that other controversies will also be submitted to that judicial body. They believe that, if this is done, the likelihood of war can be reduced.

The International Court of Justice was set up as a part of the United Nations almost three years ago but thus far it has had very little "work" to do. Under the UN charter, it consists of 15 members, all of whom are appointed by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. They serve terms of nine years each.

## Cattle Disease

According to a recent government report, the United States has spent about 90 million dollars in the last two years in an effort to wipe out foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico. The dis-

ease affects cattle and other livestock and makes them unfit to eat.

The United States is helping to eradicate this infection in a foreign country because of our fear that it might spread to our own cattle if it is not stopped south of the border. The disease is presently located in the central portion of Mexico but there is a danger that it might travel northward.

A joint commission of American and Mexican officials has been set up to combat foot-and-mouth infections among cattle and it now has in its employ about 3,000 men. The latter kill every animal that is suffering from the disease and try to make healthy cattle immune by using a newly developed vaccine. Chemists think that the vaccine will help check the spread of foot-and-mouth disease but say that it is not completely effective.

In addition to spending money directly on the commission, the United States pays the owners of cattle ten cents a pound for their slaughtered animals.

## Top-Flight Film

"The Stratton Story" is an exceptionally good baseball movie, and even those who are not fans will find it excellent entertainment.

The film is based on the real-life story of Monty Stratton, a young Chicago White Sox pitcher who seemed on the verge of stardom in 1938 when he won 15 games. Just after the season ended, Stratton accidentally shot himself in a hunting accident, and had to have his right leg amputated above the knee.

His athletic career seemed ended, but the persevering Stratton determined to pitch again. Several years later—on an artificial leg—he won 18 games for Sherman of the East Texas League.

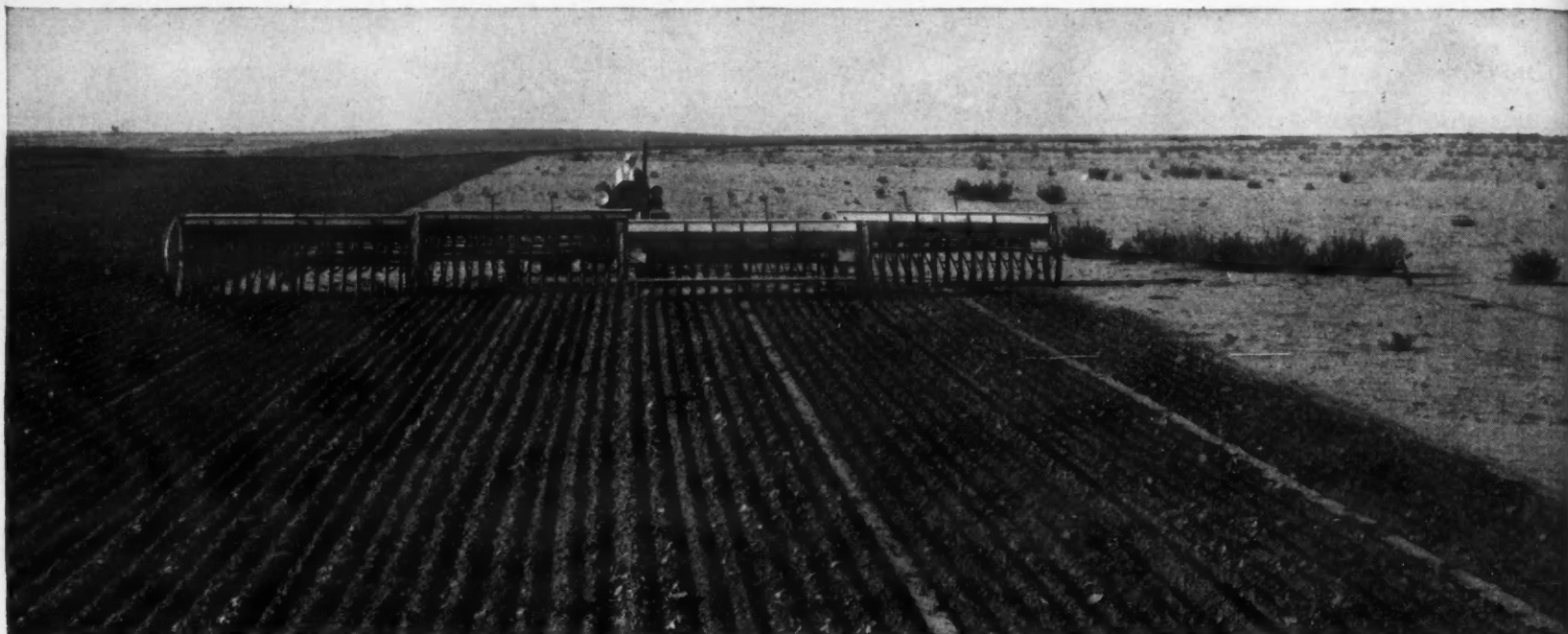
Jimmy Stewart, who was coached by the real Monty Stratton, gives a fine performance in the title role. June Allyson is appealing as the girl he marries. She stands by him through his period of discouragement. Frank Morgan plays the part of a baseball old-timer who discovers Stratton in a sand-lot game in Texas.

The diamond scenes are made realistic by the appearance of well-known professional ball players.



TO REIGN FOR A YEAR. These winners of singles events in the National Badminton tournament, Ethel Marshall, of Buffalo, New York, and Marten Mendez, of San Diego, California, will hold their places as the nation's top badminton players until the 1950 tournament is held next spring. Dave Freeman, of Pasadena, California, considered the best player in the world, did not take part in the national tournament.





MACHINERY has helped the American farmer produce record crops during recent years

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR COMPANY

## U.S. Agriculture

(Concluded from page 1)

crop output was rapidly increasing.

Then, as the great depression of the 1930's developed, people in our own nation became unable to purchase as much food and clothing as they needed. The market for agricultural products therefore suffered still more.

Prices of grain and other farm items sank to distressingly low levels. In 1933 wheat sold for about 30 cents a bushel, corn for 20 cents a bushel, and hogs and beef cattle for roughly \$3 per hundred pounds. Present prices are from about six to nine times as high.

There was little that the farmers themselves could do about their predicament. If, as is true in some lines of manufacturing, an industry is controlled by a few large companies, these firms can often remedy surpluses and the resulting low prices. They can cut production so that surpluses will tend to disappear.

### Government Action

The farming business, however, is different. Each farmer's output accounts for so small a portion of the total crop that his individual actions have practically no effect on the overall market. He sees no reason to cut production, for doing so would merely reduce his own income. Thus, even though much more is raised on farms than can be sold, farmers may continue to pile up surpluses which drive prices still lower.

In the early 1930's, the United States government made an effort to reduce farm surpluses. Shortly after Franklin D. Roosevelt became President, there was established a program under which farmers who cut down the size of their crops were given sizable payments from the federal treasury.

This system worked in several ways to make large numbers of the farmers more prosperous than they had been. First, they received the direct government payments. Second, the reduction of farm output helped to remove surpluses and boost prices.

Although programs of this nature were carried out during most of the 1930's, "overproduction" remained an outstanding farm difficulty. The whole picture quickly changed with the coming of World War II. Need for heavy production became the foremost agri-

cultural problem. The government did all it could to stimulate a big output of farm products.

A plan which was in effect at that time—and is still in operation—contained a "price support" system, designed to guarantee the farmers good returns for all they could produce. But this provision was hardly needed during the war period. As a result of the heavy wartime demand for agricultural products, prices rose rapidly to levels well above those guaranteed under the federal support plan. The high prices encouraged farmers to turn out large quantities of grain and other commodities.

Production has continued high since the war, and so has demand. Food shipments have played a large part in the European Recovery Program and various other foreign aid measures undertaken by the United States. Overseas nations have obtained roughly 1½ billion dollars' worth of agricultural products—principally grain, fats and oils, and cotton—from the United States under the ERP.

Gradually, however, the situation is changing again. Agriculture is making a recovery in Western European countries whose grain production was greatly reduced a few years ago. The Marshall Plan is helping those nations to overcome their shortages of seed, fertilizer, and farm machinery. If they have good crop weather, they

are likely to become less dependent upon us for food than they were during the war and early postwar years. A decline in foreign buying, combined with another season or two of bumper crops in the United States, could mean the return of surpluses and low prices.

Already the values of most farm products have fallen well below their wartime or early postwar peaks. Some have hit the government's "guarantee" level and are now being held up by the federal price support system. Wheat, priced in the neighborhood of \$3 per bushel during the latter part of 1947, has recently been bringing about \$2 per bushel. Corn prices, which approached the \$3-a-bushel level a little more than a year ago, have gone down to about \$1.30.

Values of many other commodities have likewise dropped sharply. The question of what to do about these declining prices has been the subject of considerable debate.

Although consumers are glad to see prices dropping, there is widespread agreement that extremely low farm incomes would be harmful to the entire nation. "Most depressions," says Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan, "have been farm-led and farm-fed. Farm prices traditionally go down before other prices. . . . Farm people are the major early victims of a squeeze. As their income

and, therefore, purchasing power is cut by low prices . . . industrial producers find a contracting market for their production. This throws workers out of jobs. They in turn spend less for farm products, which in turn further forces down farm prices. . . .

"I don't mean to say," Secretary Brannan continues, "that declines in farm prices are the sole cause of depressions, but they certainly contribute greatly and would do so more now than in the past because agriculture has become a bigger customer of industry."

### Price Supports

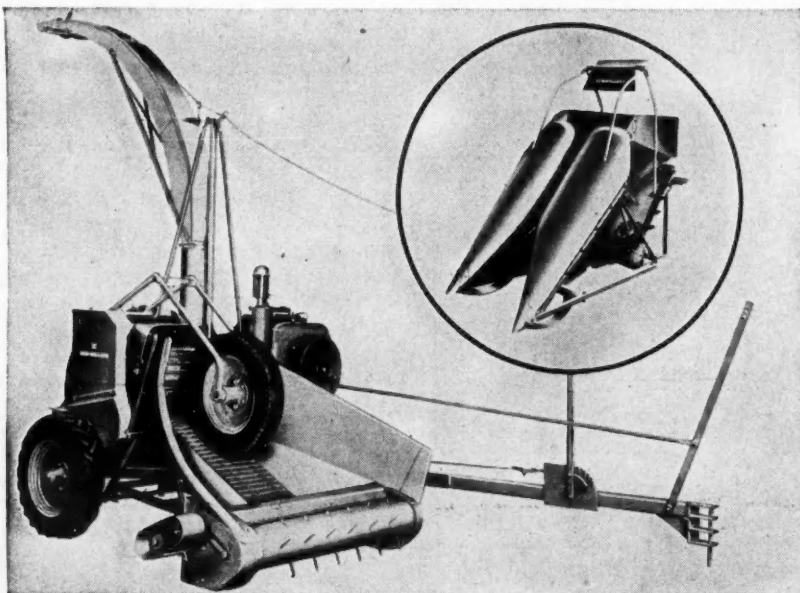
The government wants to make sure the farmer can continue to buy industrial goods on a big scale. It maintains, as we mentioned earlier, minimums—sometimes known as "support prices" or "floors"—for the values of various agricultural products; and it takes action to uphold prices whenever they dip down to these "floors."

But there is considerable feeling that the government should not go ahead supporting the prices of unlimited quantities of farm produce. The existing law provides a way for restricting output of crops if surpluses develop. Plans for limiting the production of wheat and certain other commodities, under this law, may be put into effect before too long a time.

Meanwhile, Congress is studying the Truman administration's new proposals on farm legislation. The President's measure would provide for limiting crops to prevent farm surpluses, and administration leaders say that it includes methods for handling farm prices in a way which would be fair both to crop raisers and to consumers. Opponents of the Truman program, however, contend that it would place a very heavy burden upon the taxpayers, and that it would put farmers under strict government control.

The task of making plans about farm surpluses and prices is an especially difficult one, because crops are dependent upon weather conditions. Crop failures can change a problem of surpluses to one of shortages.

In fact, ERP officials say that if Europe's spring weather is dry, that continent may have a poor grain crop this year and may need to continue drawing heavily on us for supplies. If this occurs, it may be some time before U. S. crop surpluses present a problem.



NEW LABOR-**SAVING** MACHINERY for the farm. This machine chops hay and loads it into a wagon. The corn attachment, shown in the inset, may be put on the basic machine to cut and chop corn stalks for silage.

ACME



## Science News

**E**VEN the time-honored chore of feeding chickens has been reduced to a push-button operation by a Massachusetts farmer. An electrically operated conveyor controlled by a time clock carries a supply of feed from a storage bin along a trough. The feed is either eaten or returned to the bin to be fed to the chickens later.

Sixteen meals of one and a half minutes eating time can be provided in an eight-hour day. The automatic feeder eliminates work, fattens the chickens faster than ordinary feeding methods, and reduces the amount of food that is wasted.

★ ★ ★

By experimenting with real pie meringue, scientists of Westinghouse Corporation have developed a foam-like plastic even lighter than the fluffiest lemon pie meringue.

Non-inflammable, the new material is to be used to insulate refrigerators, stoves, soft-drink coolers, prefabricated metal-house sections, and airplanes. Enough plastic foam to insulate a six-room house can be shipped in a single barrel.

★ ★ ★

Chloromycetin, ordinarily derived only from living mold, is now being produced artificially on a practical scale. This "wonder drug" cures typhoid fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and undulant fever, and is also effective against whooping cough and virus pneumonia.

With this new source of supply, the



WIDE WORLD

**MODEL** of a man-carrying rocket. Research is being conducted at Wright Field, Ohio, on rockets that can be operated by a pilot carried in the blunt nose of the craft. The ship of which this is the model would stand 30 feet high.

medical profession thinks it can now supply the demand for the drug. Scientists are experimenting with other drugs of a similar nature that may prove even more effective than the mold-produced variety.

★ ★ ★

The most startling of the new safety devices featured at the annual Safety Convention this year is the automatic safety speaker that shouts at jaywalkers and careless workers. Its recorded messages come through a loudspeaker when the starting trigger is tripped by an electric beam, by a footstep, by smoke, light, or the turn of a wheel. The "safety voice" can also be coordinated with changing traffic signals at street intersections.

—By DOROTHY ADAMS.



INDIAN TYPES—a young woman and a Hindu boy

## A New Indian State

**Fifteen Princely Units Join to Form Part of the Dominion of India. Together They Are Known as Rajasthan**

**D**URING the year and a half since it gained its independence, the Dominion of India has been striving to draw together the many groups into which the nation is split. Last month its efforts met with success in one large section of northwestern India. In a colorful ceremony attended by native chiefs, the domains of 15 Indian princes were merged into a new state called Rajasthan, or Land of the Princes.

The affairs of the new state are being handled by the national government at New Delhi until elections can be held to choose a local assembly. In the meantime, the former rulers have given up all rights to govern their lands, and in the future they will have only ceremonial duties to perform.

This is an outstanding event in the history of that part of India, for during the past 1,000 years, its leaders have remained fairly independent. When India was freed from British rule, the Rajasthan princes joined their lands to the new Dominion Government, but they still kept the right to handle local matters themselves. By forming their territories into a single unit at this time, they hope to bring about more efficient government in the region.

The inhabitants of the newly formed state are known throughout India for their bravery in battle and for their gallantry—their lands have been called "the home of Indian chivalry." Rajasthan's leaders are among the proudest of Indian royalty; a legend popular in the region is that the princes are descendants of the sun and the moon.

Rajasthan will now be the largest single unit in the Dominion of India. It is some 120,000 square miles in size—about the area of New Mexico—and has a population of some 11 million people. The state is really made up of two distinct regions separated by a range of mountains that extend from northwest to southeast.

Three-fifths of Rajasthan lies west of the mountains. In this region fertile farms in the foothills gradually give way to desert as one travels west. There are few trees, and in some places cactus and prickly shrubs are the only vegetation.

The region to the east of the range is more productive. Its soil is rich and there are extensive stretches of forest land. The climate of all Rajasthan is fairly hot and dry in summer and cold during the winter, and

is generally believed to be the most healthful in India.

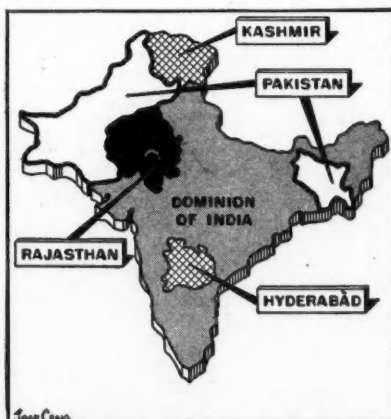
The masses of the people earn their livings by farming or by raising cattle, sheep, and camels in the more arid parts of the state. Grains, hemp, and cotton are the chief crops, but indigo and tobacco are also grown. Farming methods are primitive, and most of the land is owned by wealthy chieftains and cultivated by peasant families.

There are no modern industries, although Rajasthan has a variety of metals, including cobalt, zinc, copper, lead, and iron. A number of items such as cotton and woolen goods, carpets, pottery, and jewelry, are made by handicraft methods.

The chief city of the region, Jaipur, is located about 150 miles from New Delhi. A picturesque town of palaces and thriving bazaars, it is often called the "pink city" because of the rosy hue of its stucco houses. Jaipur has three colleges and a number of hospitals.

Like the rest of India, Rajasthan has many problems to solve. There are sharp contrasts between the wealthy, land-owning classes and the teeming masses of extremely poor and uneducated people. Only about 14 per cent of the inhabitants of Rajasthan can read and write.

Nearly 27,000 students from 151 foreign places are attending schools in the United States and its possessions. They are studying in colleges, universities, and technical schools, in all 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.



RAJASTHAN—a new state in the Dominion of India

## Readers Say—

An article in your April 11 issue said that television would have a bad effect on sports since people would sit at home and be content to view games in the comfort of their living room. I disagree. Most families do not care to remain indoors all the time and television will arouse their interest to the point where they will patronize sports events more frequently than they are now doing.

EUNICE KLAYMAN,  
St. Louis, Missouri

★ ★ ★

We think that Representative John Rankin is doing a great service to our war veterans by trying to obtain pensions and other benefits for them. After all, our ex-servicemen underwent many dangers that the folks back home never experienced and they deserve the best treatment possible from the government.

HENRY BONDARENKO,  
DAMON BRINK,  
JERRY BARRIGER,  
Akron, Michigan

★ ★ ★

In a recent letter, Leslie Smith asks if it would have been humane for the Japanese to drop atomic bombs on us. The answer is yes, it would have been humane, provided: We were on our last legs and the enemy was on our doorstep; we no longer had any allies; our high command knew that defeat was inevitable; and enemy bombs were blasting our cities night and day.



This is what occurred in Japan, and under the circumstances I think we did the humane thing by using the atom bomb. If we had not used the bomb, thousands of American and Japanese lives would have been lost in a senseless struggle.

JACK WILCOX,  
Fitzgerald, Georgia

★ ★ ★

In regard to your article on the recent coal dispute, I believe that John L. Lewis is a martyr who has done all he could to help the miners. If John L. received some support from the government, rather than hindrance, there would be few accidents in the mines and many miners who have been killed would be alive today.

W. B. WESTENDORF,  
Morrison, Illinois

★ ★ ★

I agree with the American Medical Association concerning the proposed national health plan. The contemplated health insurance program should be voluntary and the government should spend its money on building hospitals, providing adequate public health services, and supporting medical education and research.

PATRICIA COOPER,  
Silverton, Oregon

★ ★ ★

Our government is like a machine, in that it generally works smoothly but sometimes suffers from friction. The officials of the executive and legislative branches of our government should understand this and should try to appreciate each other's position.

MARVIN KANTOR,  
Newark, New Jersey

★ ★ ★

(Address your letters to Readers Say, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

### Pronunciations

Alcide de Gasperi—ahl-ché-dé dē gah' spē-rē

Rajasthan—rah'jahs-tahn'

Jaipur—ji-poor

Delhi—dél'i



## Careers for Tomorrow - - Work as a Nurse

**A** NURSE'S qualifications depend in part upon natural characteristics, and in part upon one's having the proper training. Persons who plan to go into this field should be accurate and have good judgment. They should also have good health and a real liking for people. The most highly skilled nurses will not be successful unless they have an instinctive desire to help those who are ill.

A high school diploma and graduation from a nursing school are the basic educational requirements for the work. The high school course required by most nursing schools is similar to that required for entrance by the standard colleges. It includes the study of English, science, mathematics, history, language, and civics.

There are two types of nursing schools—those connected with hospitals and those associated with colleges or universities. The hospital schools usually admit students who have successfully completed the high school course of study outlined above. The collegiate nursing schools usually require two years of college study in addition to the high school diploma.

Two schools of nursing—those at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, and at Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio—require a college degree for admission, although Western Reserve also has a course for persons with two years of college.

A graduate of a hospital nursing school receives a diploma, while a person who completes the course at a

collegiate school earns the diploma and a bachelor's degree. After graduating from either type of institution, students must pass an examination given by the state before they can begin to practice as registered nurses.

Graduate nurses may choose from among several different branches of the profession. They may become hospital nurses and do general floor



**THERE ARE** good career opportunities in nursing

work; or they may do private nursing and care for only one patient at a time. There are other opportunities in the field of public health, with industrial firms, and in nursing education.

A nurse's duties depend upon the branch of the field one enters. A hospital nurse, or one on private duty, carries out a doctor's instructions in

giving medicines and other treatments to a patient. This nurse bathes and feeds the patient, keeps charts that give the patient's pulse and temperature, and watches carefully for any change in the ill person's condition that should be brought to the doctor's attention immediately.

An industrial nurse usually has an office in an industrial plant and cares for accident cases or for illnesses that may develop among the workers. This nurse may also discuss health problems with employees and refer them to a doctor when that is necessary. Public health nurses usually work for state, city, or county agencies. They often go from home to home among needy people to give them suggestions as to nursing care.

Salaries for nurses vary somewhat according to the branch of the profession one chooses. According to recent estimates, earnings of nurses on general hospital duty range from \$180 to \$205 per month. Private nurses earn about \$10 a day. Nurses in industry earn from \$170 to \$230 a month. Those who teach in the field make from \$184 to \$258 per month, and public health nurses earn between \$164 to \$221 per month. The top salaries earned by persons in supervisory jobs are from \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year.

Additional information about this field can be secured from the Committee on Careers in Nursing, National League of Nursing Education, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, New York.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Study Guide

### Agriculture

1. Tell of some conditions which were responsible for the farm surpluses during the 1920's and 1930's.
2. Why is it difficult for individual farmers to deal with problems of surpluses?
3. What remedy did the government apply shortly after President Franklin D. Roosevelt took office?
4. How did the U. S. agricultural situation change when World War II occurred?
5. Compare present wheat and corn prices with those of little more than a year ago.
6. Explain Secretary Brannan's statement that "most depressions have been farm-led and farm-fed."

### Discussion

1. Do you or do you not feel the government is justified in spending public funds to uphold farm prices, even though this action may tend to keep food costs at a higher level than they would otherwise be? Explain your position.
2. Do you approve of government action to limit farm output at times when larger crops than can be sold are produced? Why or why not?

### Italy

1. How is Italy using the money made available to her through the European Recovery Program?
2. Why does the country want the colonies she once owned in Africa returned to her?
3. Why has the question of Italian colonies been turned over to the General Assembly of the United Nations?
4. Give two reasons to explain the present large-scale unemployment in Italy.
5. What effect does the fact that Italy must import most of her raw materials have upon prices of manufactured articles? What other factor causes prices to be high?
6. Discuss briefly the population problem in Italy.
7. Why haven't the nation's farmers turned to the use of modern machinery?

### Discussion

1. Would you or would you not be in favor of returning the African colonies to Italy? Explain your position.
2. In your opinion, should other nations let down their bars to immigration to help relieve the population problem in Italy? Give reasons for your answer.

### Miscellaneous

1. What may be the British Labor Party's most difficult task if it is to win the general elections of 1950?
2. How have U. S. attempts to bring about international control of the Antarctic regions succeeded?
3. How do the views of Bruce Bliven concerning the future of the human race differ from those of a number of other authorities?
4. Define "genocide." What agreement concerning genocide is now before the legislatures of the various members of the UN?
5. Why is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt being honored by the Women's National Press Club as "Woman of the Year"?
6. For what purpose has the United States spent 90 million dollars in Mexico in the last two years?
7. What decision did the International Court of Justice recently hand down?

### References

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### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) ridiculed; 2. (c) without setting a day on which to reassemble; 3. (a) suddenly caused; 4. (b) wrongdoing; 5. (a) blameworthy; 6. (a) criticized.

## Historical Backgrounds - - Mechanizing the Farms

**L**ATER this month giant combines pulled by tractors will begin rolling through the golden fields of wheat in Texas. Week by week as the season advances, they will move northward through the ripening fields of the nation's grain belt, cutting the wheat, threshing it, spraying the straw and chaff on the ground, and pouring the grain into waiting trucks.

These mechanical devices of harvest time are among the most marvelous of the labor-saving machines which characterize American farming today. Together with tractors, corn harvesters, cotton pickers, and other modern agricultural machines, they are helping American farmers to produce crops which amaze the rest of the world.

In the early days of our country, the farmer broke his ground with a wooden plow pulled by horses or oxen. He scattered seed by hand and cut his grain with a sickle or cradle. To separate kernels from chaff, he placed sheaves of grain on the barn floor and beat them with a flail. Continuous, back-breaking toil was necessary to produce even a modest quantity of food.

Farming methods began to change for the better during the 1800's, when machinery was invented to lighten the farmer's work and to help him produce bigger crops.

One of the first and most important of the farm machines was the reaper, invented by Cyrus McCormick of Virginia in the early 1830's. Drawn by horses, the new machine enabled the farmer to harvest about five times as

much grain as he had been able to cut by hand.

Some time later, a threshing machine was developed to do away with the slow and strenuous work of flailing grain. Plows were improved, seed planters were introduced, and finally, tractors began to take the place of horses. Today the long list of farm machinery includes equipment to handle all the steps in the production of most crops.

With the equipment at his disposal today the farmer gets a greater harvest for each hour he spends in the fields than he did in the past. One hundred years ago a farmer had to spend about 64 hours on every acre of wheat to do the jobs of plowing, planting and harvesting. Today, all these tasks together would add up to only about 2½ hours' work per acre.

The corn harvester, which picks the ears of grain, husks them, and loads them on wagons, enables one

farmer to gather from 10 to 12 times the amount of corn he could pick by hand. And the cotton-picking machine, which is being used more and more today, does the work of 60 men!

This does not mean that farm life is easy; much work still must be done by hand. But the labor-saving machines make it possible for today's farmers to avoid much back-breaking labor and to have more leisure time. More than that, though, it means that an individual farmer can manage greater tracts of land with less assistance than he could in the past.

In the early days, farmers produced crops largely for their own use, and three of every four laborers were employed on farms. Today, only one in seven of our working population is a farmer. Yet, in recent years, American farmers have grown enough food for the needs of the United States, and have sent large surpluses abroad.

—By AMALIE ALVEY.

